

REMARKS

Claims 14, 15, 17, 18 and 20-31 were pending in the above-captioned application when the present Office Action was mailed (May 2, 2006), with claims 17, 18 and 20-24 withdrawn. Claims 17, 18, 26 and 28 have been cancelled, and claims 25, 27 and 29 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 14, 15, 20-25, 27 and 29-31 remain pending, with claims 20-24 withdrawn.

In the May 2, 2006 Office Action, claims 14, 15 and 25-31 were rejected. More specifically, the status of the application in light of the Office Action is as follows:

(A) Claims 25-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112;

(B) Claims 14, 25, 26 and 28-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 2,315,110 to Durandau et al. ("Durandau") in view of US Patent No. 2,911,509 to Millerwise ("Millerwise"); and

(C) Claims 15 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Durandau and Millerwise, and further in view of US Patent No. 6,142,413 to Dequin et al. ("Dequin").

The undersigned attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for engaging in a telephone interview on July 24, 2006. The following remarks summarize the result of the telephone interview, and expand upon certain points discussed during the telephone interview. Accordingly, applicant requests that this paper constitute Applicant's interview summary. If the Examiner believes the interview summary is deficient in any way, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney to correct any such deficiencies.

During the July 24, 2006 telephone interview, the undersigned attorney agreed to cancel claims 17 and 18, which depend from previously cancelled claim 16. The Examiner and the undersigned attorney also discussed independent claims 14 and 25, along with the

applied references. With regard to claim 14, the Examiner agreed that neither of the applied references discloses or suggests a receptacle portion that is integrally coupled to the wing, nor an actuator that is releasably disposed in the receptacle. Accordingly, the Examiner agreed to withdraw the outstanding Section 103 rejection of claim 14. With regard to claim 25, the Examiner agreed that the applied references fail to disclose or suggest the features of the claim, assuming the claim was amended to include cover means having an opening through which an actuator linkage passes.

A. Response to the Section 112 Rejections

Claims 25-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. In particular, the phrase "first and second registration [features]" was alleged to be vague and indefinite. As discussed during the July 24, 2006 telephone interview, and as disclosed in the Specification at paragraph 18, the actuator 130 can include "one or more recesses 134 or other registration features" and the actuator receptacle can include "corresponding projections 127 or other registration features." The registration features "can reduce the likelihood that the actuator will be misaligned or mispositioned within the actuator receptacle." Accordingly, the Specification provides support for the use of the phrase "registration features," which includes, but is not limited to, the particular embodiment described above. Therefore, the Section 112 rejection of claims 25-31 on this basis should be withdrawn.

Claims 25 and 29 were also rejected under Section 112 because the phrase "the component" lacked antecedent basis. In both claims, the phrase "the component" has been changed to "the device," without narrowing the scope of these claims. Accordingly, the Section 112 rejections of these claims should be withdrawn.

B. Response to the Section 103 Rejections on the Basis of Durandeu and Millerwise

As discussed above, the Examiner agreed during the July 24, 2006 telephone interview that the Section 103 rejection of claim 14 the basis of Durandeu and Millerwise would be withdrawn for at least the reason that neither of these references discloses or suggests a receptacle portion that is integrally coupled to an aircraft wing, and that releasably receives an actuator.

As was also discussed above during the July 24, 2006 telephone interview, the Examiner indicated that claim 25 would patentably define over the applied references if amended to clarify that the claimed aircraft further includes cover means removably coupled to the actuator housing means, with the cover means including an opening through which an actuator linkage extends. Claim 25 has been amended in this manner, and accordingly, the Section 103 rejection of claim 25 should be withdrawn.

Claims 26 and 29-31 depend from claim 25. Accordingly, the Section 103 rejections of these claims should be withdrawn for the foregoing reasons and for the additional features of these dependent claims.

C. Response to the Section 103 Rejections of Claims 15 and 27

Claims 15 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Durandeu and Millerwise and further in view of Dequin. Claim 15 depends from claim 14, and claim 27 depends from claim 25. Dequin fails to fill the voids described above with reference to Durandeu and Millerwise as establishing a basis for rejecting independent claims 14 and 25 under Section 103. Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons and for the additional features of these dependent claims, the Section 103 rejections of claims 15 and 27 should be withdrawn.

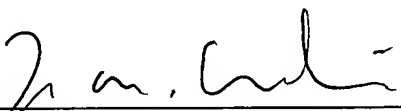
D. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant believes the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner discovers any informalities or other matters that can be expediently handled by telephone, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (206) 359-3257.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 367618011US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: Aug. 1, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
John M. Wechkin

Registration No.: 42,216
PERKINS COIE LLP
P.O. Box 1247
Seattle, Washington 98111-1247
(206) 359-3257
(206) 359-4257 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant